

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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An Airman Alone in "Trembling Earth"

THE first man to be lost in a vast swamp in Georgia, U.S.A., and to find his way out alive is an American airman with the good Scottish name of James Douglas Stewart. His plane crashed in the Okefenokee Swamp and caught fire, but he managed to get out unhurt. He could hardly have come down in a worse place.

The Okefenokee Swamp, so-called from an Indian word which is said to mean "trembling earth," is about 45 miles long and 30 miles wide. It is a deserted wilderness of cypress and black gum trees growing in mud, of wide marshes, low islands covered with pine trees, and a few stretches of shallow water.

He decided to follow the rule for stranded airmen and to stay by his wrecked plane in the hope that it would be spotted by rescuing aircraft. Then he climbed a tree and realised the grim fact that his plane could not be seen from above. His only hope of life was to do what no man lost in Okefenokee had done before—to walk out of the swamp.

He started his dreadful pilgrimage. He had to drag himself for miles through mud and avoid the grip of bogs, and be on the watch all the time for poisonous snakes and alligators. For food he found berries and chewed grass, and thus for seven long days he fought yard by yard through the mire. But he beat the Okefenokee, and reached his fellow men, who took him to hospital at Homerville, Georgia.

TWO LITTLE SAILING BOATS



When 12-year-old John Hill, of West Bromwich, returned from a visit to South Africa, he brought with him this model yacht, made by craftsmen in the Canary Islands.

A HELPING OF LIZARD PIE WITH SEAWEED SALAD

THE world's strangest cookery book is the one recently prepared by the Royal Canadian Air Force for its School of Survival at Fort Nelson, British Columbia; some of the recipes would have alarmed the worthy Mrs Beeton.

Aircrews engaged in flying over Canada's northland, and who are now going through the school, will learn from this book how to defeat starvation if forced down. It gives them recipes for such delicacies as newt stew, lizard pie, bat soup, a dish of lousewort (a form of weed), seaweed salad, and lemming-en-casserole garnished with sea cucumber.

The authors of this invaluable book are two Air Force officers who had long experience of the Arctic while with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They admit their dishes are not for the fastidious, but for the fellow who just wants to live; and they claim that hundreds of lives would have been saved, including those of members of the Sir John Franklin expedition, if knowledge of how to find food in Canada's Arctic had been available earlier.

"All animals in the north are safe to eat," they point out in their book. "This includes bats, lizards, newts, frogs, and even snakes, which taste like the white meat of chicken. Grubs found in the ground or in rotten wood make good food. So do grasshoppers, toasted on a stick. Pick off legs and wings before cooking. Do not eat caterpillars; some are poisonous. Meat is meat when you are hungry."

STOLEN SWORD RETURNS

THE Wallace Sword which is now on view again in the Hall of Heroes in the National Wallace Monument, at Stirling, recalls an astonishing story.

On Sunday night, November 7, 1936, the caretaker of the Wallace Monument heard a knock at the door. Wondering who could be calling at such an hour, he opened the door and was confronted by four masked men who said they had come for the Wallace Sword.

The caretaker shut the door in their faces, but the men forced their way in and locked him in his room. Then they climbed up a sloping buttress of the tower and gained admittance to the Hall of Heroes by smashing a stained-glass window known as the Crown and Sceptre. There they found the Wallace Sword and escaped with it.

Several months later the police received an anonymous letter and, acting on the information it contained, found the missing sword at Bothwell—at the bottom of a well!

Two yachtsmen, sailing on the Thames at Surbiton, lie flat out to prevent their craft from capsizing in the stiff breeze.

Starting From Scratch

MANY motorists went astray recently on a road near Wimborne, Dorset, all because a cow had scratched its head against a signpost and turned the sign in the wrong direction.

MUTTON BIRDS ON THE WING

FOR some time past the Australian Government has been investigating the migratory habits of mutton birds, which nest in great numbers in the Furneaux group of islands. Every year the mutton birds—so named because their flesh tastes and looks like mutton—take off on their long, long flight to the Bering Strait and the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska.

It has now been established beyond doubt that the route of these far-flying migrants lies by way of the Solomon Islands and Japan. The birds return by another route which has not yet been discovered, but it is thought that they either follow a course along the Pacific coast of America

or fly across the middle of the Pacific. In all, the round trip cannot be less than 18,000 miles.

In recent years the numbers of mutton birds in the Furneaux islands has dropped considerably, so the Australian Government are taking steps to stop sheep-breeding there so that the ground can be ploughed in an effort to attract the birds back to their nesting places.

HE SOLD SEA SHELLS

WHEN the giant oil tanker *Velutina*, christened by Princess Margaret, goes to sea in July her captain will receive a sea shell from his employers. This is in accordance with custom, for the tankers in this fleet are named after shells, and each one carries the appropriate shell in a glass case throughout her career.

The custom has an interesting origin. The founder of the great Shell group of oil companies was Marcus Samuel, later Lord Bearsted, who began life in a humble way in the East End of London, selling painted sea shells and other curios.

In those days shells were widely used for decorative purposes, but young Samuel made little money out of the business; not until he went in for oil

transport did fortune come to him.

But Marcus Samuel never forgot his start in life. Each one of his tankers became a "shell," and the company formed to run them was styled the Shell Oil firm. Instead of selling shells to the public he presented them to his ships.

Pressing Affair

A CROWD was gathered round a motor lorry at Greta, but curious passers-by found that it was not due to a road accident. The people were merely watching an obliging lorry-driver slowly manoeuvring his ten-ton lorry over two planks in order to press a Greta villager's home-grown tobacco.

Auld Reekie Minus the Reek

ON his retirement after 35 years' service Mr Allan Ritchie, Chief Sanitary Inspector of Edinburgh, was complimented on his pioneering efforts to remove the "stigma of reek" associated with the ancient name of Edinburgh. Ritchie's achievements in this respect have been recognised by the Smoke Abatement Society, who made him a member of Council and president of the Scottish section.



The Western Powers Must Act as a Team

Once again London is to be the main centre of interest in world politics, for the Foreign Secretaries of Britain, France, and the United States are due to meet in the British capital next week. A C N correspondent, who is a close student of international developments, believes that this conference will be the most important diplomatic event since the end of the war in Europe. He writes as follows:

THE momentous character of the London discussions by the Big Three can be seen from the fact that a full fortnight was set apart for the final preparations for this conference. These preparations were entrusted to Mr Jessop, the United States roving Ambassador, M. Massigli, the French Ambassador in London, and Sir William Strang, Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, a team of first-class importance.

Of course there is little doubt of what is to be discussed. The happenings in South-East Asia are one thing; others are the situation in the Middle East, still a good deal uncertain, the Balkans, and Germany. The very special problem of Yugoslavia, which is both anti-Soviet and anti-West, and Russia's "cold war" are further items of importance.

The Big Three

It may be said that the subjects to be raised at the London meetings of Mr Bevin, M. Schuman, and Mr Acheson are far from being new. Most of these worries have been with us since the end of the war. If there is great hope attached to the meeting of the Big Three—and many think there is—it rests on the belief that at long last the Ministers will be able to work out a single and uniform policy for the West in all matters under discussion.

This is naturally far from easy in a free world. Independent democratic nations all have their own policies and normally will

not agree to suggestions by other nations, no matter how big or powerful, unless they feel such proposals are sound and just. However, the nations of the West have come to realise that it is in their own interest to get together, to agree on what to do, to do what is decided, and to do it jointly, quickly, and efficiently.

French Plan

But how to secure a common policy? There is belief in France, for instance, that the best way to do it would be by creating an Atlantic Union including all the countries of Western Europe and the United States; such a Union would be planning its defence jointly, and would develop perhaps at some later date, into a new great State stretching from the Rhine to California.

This is, of course, a grand idea, but the danger, as with all great ideas, is that the national representatives may get submerged in discussing something which at present is an obvious political impossibility. The main task of the Ministers, therefore, appears to be not to lay down plans for future combinations of the freedom-loving democracies, but to find out to what extent they can work out a common policy, combining as a real team which can cope with all the present emergencies and problems and making adequate plans for joint action in the difficulties that may arise in the future.

If this is, in fact, done, then a real union of the Western nations may be nearer than many people imagine.

Modern Merchant Adventurers

TWO modern Merchant Adventurers have just made a journey of some thousands of miles in a praiseworthy attempt to sell the attractions of their famous city.

They are Alderman J. B. Morrell, the Lord Mayor of York, and Councillor A. S. Rymer, the Sheriff. They have been to America to invite several well-known people to visit York during the Festival of Britain in 1951, and while there they gave broadcasts concerning the beauties of ancient York.

People invited were chiefly those connected in some way with the name York, and two of the first invitations were given to Mr William O'Dwyer, the Mayor of New York, and to Mr Felix Bentzel, the Mayor of York in Pennsylvania.

Toronto in Canada was also visited and its mayor invited, for Toronto, capital of York County, was originally known as York; and quartered in its coat of arms are the lions of the English city. While there, the two "Adventurers" stayed at the Royal York Hotel.

STROLLING PLAYERS

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE of Brighouse, Yorkshire, are to send a party of young players on a theatrical tour of the Arnsberg district of Germany.

The tour will be part of an extensive scheme whereby 500 children from the West Riding will visit Germany this summer; and in due course a return visit to Yorkshire will be made by German children.

During the first week of their visit the young Brighouse players will give performances to audiences of German school-children, and in the second week will be themselves entertained. It is hoped to take them to the Passion Play at Oberammergau in the Bavarian Alps and to some of the famous State theatres and opera houses.

When the German children come over here in July they will be taken on a tour of the Dales, and will visit industrial towns of the North, spending the evenings at various theatres. The West Riding Youth Committee are to be congratulated on this splendid attempt to foster international understanding among young people.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

THANKS A MILLION!

Marshall Aid to Europe during the two years ending March 31 totalled 8,726,500,000 dollars. Britain received 2,391,400,000 dollars (about £853,730,000) in loans.

The Boys' Brigade Annual Display will be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on May 5, at 8 p.m., and on Saturday, May 6, at 3.30 and 7.30.

Between 35 and 40 Canadian aircraft are taking part in a photo-survey of the Dominion, for the production of maps of regions which have not been accurately surveyed.

Patrol Leader John Wilkins, 14, of the 22nd Lincoln (Thomas Cooper Memorial) Group, has been awarded a Bar to the Gilt Cross for saving a boy from drowning in the River Witham.



Boy Scouts and Girl Guides from Holland, while visiting Britain, met Lord Baden-Powell, son of the founder of the Scout movement, at Scout Headquarters in London. Here he is showing them a beaker which was presented to his father at the 1937 Jamboree in Holland.

Church plans for the Festival of Britain include a service in St Paul's to mark the opening, and a programme of religious drama. The blitzed St John's Church, Waterloo Road, will become an exhibition church.

The conference of representatives of the peoples of the South Pacific islands, which is now being held at Suva, Fiji, is being attended by over 60 delegates and advisers, most of whom are natives of the various islands.

The World Glider Championships will take place at Orebro, in central Sweden, next July. The Swedish Aero Club announce that so far ten nations have expressed their intention of taking part, including Britain.

And Never Late?

A mechanical office boy will be on show at the British Industries Fair at Olympia. It has a mechanical tongue which licks and seals envelopes.

A 12-foot statue of Christ will be unveiled at Aldershot on May 5. It is surrounded by a rock garden of stones from the 55 towns and cities which suffered most in air raids. A book recording their names will be placed in St Michael's, Aldershot.

During her six-month voyage round the world, the whale factory ship Balaena sailed 30,000 miles. She arrived at Liverpool recently with 203,000 barrels of whale oil, enough to provide 40,000 tons of margarine, and 48 billion units of vitamin A liver extract.

In the last full year before the war the Austin Motor Company employed 17,000 workers and produced 1700 motor vehicles a week. Today they employ 18,000 workers and produce 3300 vehicles a week, with an export proportion of about 90 per cent.

MUSIC WHILE THEY WORK

Records are being made of the traditional "waulking" songs of the Hebrides. They are sung by the weavers when tossing the tweed to and fro to give it its finish.

Inspired by the visits of Britain's Young Vic Company, Holland is to form a Young Vic Company of her own.

An American surgeon revived a dead man twice after operating on him, by massaging his heart—the first time for 3½ hours and the second time for three hours. The man has now completely recovered.

Former students of Aberystwyth College, University of Wales, have so far given over £23,000 towards equipping new college buildings on a site overlooking the town.

Safety Song

A popular edition of the new road-safety song, *Never, Never Dash Across the Road*, is shortly to be issued by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The British Council of Churches has spent well over £1,000,000 on refugees in Europe since the war.

Additional exemptions from school for children of 14 and over to help farmers with the harvest will in no case be given this year. Children as young as 13 will be given exemptions for harvest work only when acute local needs make the employment of children unavoidable.

A De Havilland Vampire jet fighter has beaten by 22 minutes the record for the 980-mile flight from Cape Town to Pretoria which was set up in 1947. Its time was 1 hour 54 minutes.

JET MAIL

The first air mail to be carried by jet aircraft has been flown in the Avro Canada Jet-liner. It flew from Toronto to Idlewild Airport, New York, and cachets were applied to the air mail covers carried.

The Geological Survey is investigating the claim of Jan Ford, a research student at Bristol University, to have tracked the largest deposit of uranium in the world—running for twelve miles between Bath and Bristol.

A "Junior Safety Council" has just been formed in Singapore from selected boys and girls from the colony's senior schools. This committee are said to be responding well.

A sarcophagus containing the mummified body of Queen Takhout, wife of Psammetik the Second, who lived about 600 B.C., has been found in the village of Atrib, Lower Egypt.

Diatoms to Save Dollars

A KIND of earth called diatomaceous, made of the skeletons of millions of minute plants, may help Britain to save dollars. This was announced recently by Sir Roland Nugent, leader of the Northern Ireland Senate. This kind of earth is used for several purposes in industry, and Britain has hitherto had to purchase all her supplies from dollar countries.

It is used for filtering sugar, mineral oils, sewage, and so on; as a filler in paints, rubber, plastics, and other products; and as an insulator against heat, cold, and sound.

Ample Supplies

The deposit of diatomaceous earth, said Sir Roland, is in County Antrim, and, if it can be refined and purified, there is sufficient there for the whole of Britain, representing a saving of 40,000 or 50,000 dollars a year.

The regions where it is found were once under water, fresh or salt, in which lived countless millions of tiny, single-celled plants called diatoms which contain silica. When these minute specks of life died, sank to the bottom, and decayed, the silica in them remained, and in the course of millions of years has formed thick beds. The sea or lake departed, leaving dry land, the beds of diatomite were covered over by the accumulation of soil, and in our time men have dug down to the diatomite, which looks something like chalk, and used it when purified for modern industry.

Sir Roland Nugent said that the Scientific Development Committee of which he is Chairman has been testing for more than a year various processes of purifying the diatomaceous earth of Antrim, and already success has been achieved in the laboratory.

WAGING WAR ON DISEASE

THE new National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London, is to be inaugurated by the King and Queen on May 5. It will be the headquarters in this country for research into the causes of diseases and is furnished with every kind of equipment for the purpose known to science today.

The Institute is run by the Medical Research Council and includes the world influenza centre which is administered by the World Health Organisation.

This building, in which some 100 scientists and between 250 and 300 of their assistants will wage war on disease, is one of the most remarkable which has been constructed in Britain since the war.

It has a copper roof and, to supply the needs of the scientific equipment, many unusual services have been installed: distilled water through tin pipes, compressed air, steam, and both alternating and direct electric current.

In addition, there are hot and cold rooms in which the temperature can be regulated from one control point.

In its bewildering array of the latest scientific apparatus are two electron microscopes and a mass spectrometer used in connection with work on isotopes.



BIG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB

HEARING-AID valves so small that a thimble will hold three of them were on view at a recent private exhibition in London of radio and electronic components.

Representatives from 20 countries saw also 200 different kinds of radio and television parts, together with components that play an important part in nuclear research and atomic energy development. The manufacturers of these fascinating objects have nearly trebled their exports in three years.

ODD JOBS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

OUR gallant friend the fireman is always ready to lend a hand even when fire is not the enemy, and during a recent weekend London firefighters were called to some queer combats.

One, at Ealing, was to defeat a toy clockwork locomotive which had got itself viciously entangled in the hair of a young lady of six while she was playing with it. With the aid of some scissors the firemen separated the engine from the young lady's tresses.

At Stamford Hill they strove with a 15-inch ventilation pipe which had trapped a boy who had incautiously entered it during a game of hide-and-seek. The pipe was cheated of its prey.

At Norwood a household chimney was the assignation. It had snared a nervous cat which had run up it hoping to escape that way on finding itself in the wrong house. The chimney held the cat a prisoner for 22 hours before the firemen arrived.

RADIO CABINS AT CHARING CROSS

WIRELESS has entered its historical stage, and radio enthusiasts will want to see the exhibition of ships' wireless cabins which was part of the recent Marconi Jubilee celebrations, and is now on view at the Charing Cross Underground Station, London, where it will be open on weekdays until May 20.

It illustrates the progress of marine radio, and consists of exact replicas of a number of wireless cabins of famous ships during the past 50 years.

Visitors to the exhibition can, on inquiry, be given the exact position of any British ship at sea. This has been made possible by the G.P.O.

Aloft

Ramblers from a nearby town walking along the top of Winnats Road, near Castleton, Derbyshire.

SKY CROCKERY

THE queer objects which certain people in America keep saying they see in the sky are nothing new to Australian inventors, who have been busy for 20 years trying to invent flying saucers.

No fewer than six patent specifications for this sky crockery can be seen in the Patents Office at Canberra. The patents date back to 1930 and, presumably, have never passed beyond the drawing—or wishful-thinking—stage. The drawings all show a huge inverted saucer which, the inventors claim, can rise vertically, hover, or fly laterally at a tremendous speed.

Specialists who have examined these plans say they all embody the same fundamental principles which might produce a flying machine like a flying saucer. The inventors seem to have been futuristically living up to their country's motto, "Australia Will be There"—in a flying saucer if necessary.

SUPER-GLOBE

A HUGE globe, made entirely by hand and showing the countries of the world in relief, has just been completed by a British firm for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The globe is nearly six feet in diameter, and cost £1000; modelling the reliefs alone took nearly four months.

HOW ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED

THREE Canadian films being shown to industrial associations in this country demonstrate the main causes of accidents which occur in factories. The main lesson of the films is that accidents do not "happen," but are "caused."

Carelessness in the factory often leads to accidents. Oil that has been spilt on the floor and not wiped up, loose clothing, flying ties, or long hair that can catch in machinery, rough floorboards, objects left lying about the machine benches, the ignoring of elementary safety precautions—all these help to cause the 500,000 accidents which occur in Britain alone every year. These accidents keep their victims off work for at least three days, and many result in death.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S MACE

THE new mace of the Newfoundland Legislature has been presented by British Columbia. It weighs 75 lbs. and is composed of hundreds of pieces of British Columbia silver, which are etched and gold-plated, and symbolise Britain, Canada, Newfoundland, and the major industries of the two provinces. Dolphins, for instance, are emblems of the Newfoundland fisheries, and golden ropes of the shipping industry.

UNIVERSITY OF THE SAAR

ONE of the most important developments of the cultural agreement between the Saar and France is the foundation of the University of the Saar. It is at Homburg, a small town on the Saar side of the newly-established German frontier.

Lectures and papers are given in both German and French, and French and German students live together in a common hall. The University embraces training for academic callings, a school for interpreters, and an Institute for Metallurgy which is of particular importance because of the mineral wealth of the Saar.

800 MILES ON 1s 11d

THE latest hitch-hiking record for the 800-mile return journey between London and Edinburgh has been set up by a 16-year-old Scottish boy, Sergeant Henry John Moffat, of Ealing (London) A.T.C., who made the whole journey in 52 hours 58 minutes at a total cost of 1s 11d. During the whole of his trip, Henry walked only twenty miles, covering the rest of the journey in cars, lorries, and on the back of motor-cycles.

On the journey north Henry travelled up the Great North Road, and had little trouble in finding obliging drivers to take him to Edinburgh. He was dropped at St Giles's Cathedral and hurried straight to the Central Police Station, where he "clocked in" 27 hours 55 minutes after leaving Ealing.

Most people would have wanted a rest then, but Henry immediately set his face south along the Great North Road. A pillion ride on a motor-cycle took him to East Linton, and there he was lucky enough to fall in with an Edinburgh family who were just out for a car ride, but on learning what he was attempting immediately took him to the Scottish Border.

At Chester-le-Street Henry, then hardly able to keep his eyes open, slept the night in a watchman's shed; but in the morning he had another stroke of luck, for a Glasgow family motoring to Jersey for a holiday, caught up with him at Bawtry, in Yorkshire, and took him all the way to North London.

Henry, who was in uniform for his hitch-hike, lived on iron rations, his only expenses being 1s 6d for a bed in the Newcastle YMCA hostel on his first night, and 5d for two cups of tea!

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STAMP NEWS

A NEW Brazilian stamp commemorates the Italian emigration to the Rio Grande do Sul which took place 75 years ago. The design, signifying the industrial and agricultural nature of the Italians, shows a factory and a bunch of grapes.

CAYMAN ISLANDS will shortly issue a complete new series of pictorials.

THE Railroad Engineers of America are honoured on the latest US issue. The stamp depicts the legendary railroad worker Casey Jones, an obsolete locomotive, and an up-to-date streamlined model.

TWO forthcoming French stamps will honour President Raymond Poincaré and François Rabelais. A further six stamps, continuing the famous 18th-century personalities series, will honour Chénier, the poet, David the painter, Carnot and Hoche, both soldiers, and the two revolutionaries, Robespierre and Danton.

NEWS about the International Stamp Exhibition being held in London is given on page 6 of this issue.

700-YEAR-OLD PENNY

A PENNY used in the reign of Alexander II of Scotland (1214-1249) has been found at Easer Livilands, Stirling. It was one of the first coins to be struck at Roxburgh Mint, which was at Friar's Park, near Kelso, but of which all trace has disappeared.

TRUTH ABOUT AMERICA

THE American Embassy in London, the English Speaking Union, and Birmingham University have staged an exhibition in Birmingham which is designed to show what America is really like. Documentary films showing various aspects of American life and work were shown, periodicals and pictures were on view, and gramophone records of American music were played.

The United States Information Service is keeping the exhibition together so that it can travel to other towns, and there are a number of bookings for this summer.

Aground

When the new Hastings lifeboat was given its first practice launch men had to wade into the water to ease it off a sandbank.



Elephants Forget

BUT MANY OTHER ANIMALS REMEMBER

DR EDWARD HINDLE, Scientific Director of the London Zoo, recently surprised naturalists when he said that the elephant does not possess a remarkable memory, as is commonly supposed. Indeed, it is sometimes forgetful, and even downright stupid. As an instance of this, Dr Hindle related the case of an elephant which screamed with indignation when her keeper left her side. But when he returned after an absence of five months she showed no signs of recognising him.

How good are other animals at remembering?

Off to the Vet

Most dogs have good memories. At Walthamstow in Essex a dog with a sore ear used to be muzzled before being taken to the dispensary. One afternoon, because there was a children's party at the house, he was muzzled as a precaution. Soon afterwards the dog trotted round to the dispensary of his own accord, which he had never done before. He had not forgotten that the muzzle meant a trip to the vet.

Cats do not easily forget those who are kind to them. A little girl could not find her pet cat, Tom, when her family went to live on a farm 17 miles away. Six months later Tom discovered his mistress's new home and came bounding toward her, obviously remembering her with delight.

Horses have probably the best memories among animals. After being away for eight years a pony remembered the journey from London to a village in Kent, following the twisting lanes to his old stable without hesitation. Circus horses have clearly remembered complicated tricks which they have not been called on to perform over a period of many years.

Toads Beat Frogs

A Zoo experiment showed that toads have better memories than frogs. A glass jar of mealworms was placed in their enclosure. After about a week of trying to get through the glass to the mealworms, a favourite food, both frogs and toads realised it was impossible. The jar was removed.

Three days later the jar of

AN ANCIENT ENGLISH CRAFT

It is good to hear from the Rural Industries Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture that the ancient craft of thatching is by no means dead.

A year ago the Bureau, worried at the number of thatched roofs falling into disrepair all over the country, carried out a survey of all the thatchers still carrying on their traditional craft in England and Wales. The number was found to be only 778, and to retrieve this sad position the Bureau began a scheme for training thatchers. This scheme has had a fair measure of success; recruits have come in fairly steadily, if not in great numbers.

Thatching is by no means easy to learn. It requires considerable skill to bind the bundles of straw or reeds and pin them down with split hazel-wands while one is balancing precariously on a



Three brothers, Donald, Derek, and Dennis Cresswell, of Teddington, Gloucestershire, at work on a cottage at Southam, near Cheltenham.

roof, and this skill can only be acquired by experience.

Nothing, however, is more typical of the English countryside than the thatched cottages with their colonies of birds nesting under the eaves, and it is pleasant to know that they are not to become merely a memory.

ELEPHANTS—Contd

mealworms was returned, and the frogs had forgotten their experience; they pushed their noses against the jar as they had done when it was first put in. The toads remembered their previous efforts, and refused to try again. But after an interval of eight days they were ready to make a fresh effort.

There is plenty of evidence that birds have good memories.

Experts believe that pigeons find their way back over long distances by memorising landmarks near their loft.

There was a goose which always remembered when it was Sunday because the farmer wore his best clothes. On weekdays the bird was fed in the ordinary way, but on Sundays it walked to the back door, lifted the latch with its beak and called loudly for its dinner. This was a Sunday privilege which it never forgot.

Song of Oslo

ALL Norwegian towns have their own distinctive song that is sung or played on all important civic occasions. Oslo the capital city had one, of course, but was not satisfied with it, and so decided to find another in time for the forthcoming 900th anniversary of the city. Sixty compositions have been submitted and the Prize Song will be known for all time as *The Oslo Song*.

The celebrations planned for this summer will be marked by other prize music. A new orchestral composition for which Lutwig Irgens Jensen has been awarded £500 will be played when the new Town Hall is opened on May 15. Jensen is a young Norwegian musician who in 1946 was awarded a special "composer's salary" by the Government. Two other prizes of £250 have also been awarded for Festival music.

Craven Hill, our special correspondent, sends...

News From the Aviaries at London Zoo

THE pitiable plight of sea-birds which have had the misfortune to get oil on their plumage is again illustrated at the London Zoo, this time in the case of three young guillemots, a kittiwake, and a razorbill. All were received recently from Devon, where the birds were picked up on the beach by Mrs G. H. Gibbens, of Sidmouth, the plumage of all five being so thickly clogged with the heavy brown oil discharged at sea by tankers that they could scarcely move.

It was lucky for them that they were found by a bird-lover. Taking pity on them, Mrs Gibbens collected them all, put them inside a picnic basket, and took them home, where she painstakingly set about cleaning the casualties with cotton-wool soaked in warm butter, afterwards applying soap flakes and warm water. This "first-aid" was surprisingly effective, and when all the birds had recovered sufficiently, Mrs Gibbens warmed and fed them and later put them in a hamper and motored them up to town. Now, they are recuperating still further under the care of Headkeeper Gregory, who is hand-feeding them at the Eastern Aviary.

"Doing very well they are, too," says Mr Gregory. "And they are turning into proper little comedians. They give people more amusement than sea-birds usually do. For in the aviary we have a crop of rocks over which water falls, and the eagerness of the birds to get under the falling water and take a 'shower-bath' is giving visitors many a laugh!"

IN another of the Zoo aviaries the activities of some other ecastral birds are attracting attention. They are some cormorants. Many British wild birds have nested in the Gardens at some time or other, but not, to date, the cormorant—mainly because the Society has seldom had suitable breeding pairs in residence. This spring may, however, see the cormorant nesting, for in this aviary are six of these birds, all obtained two years ago from Lord Revelstoke's estate on the Isle of Lambay, off the Irish coast; and as they seemed to want to

nest, keepers are supplying them with material. Several barrow-loads of twigs and small branches have been placed in the aviary, as the cormorant builds a very large nest; and one pair of birds are looking this over with special interest.

There is, however, one snag. In the aviary live 20 African night herons. These birds, too, are wanting to nest, and from time to time keep raiding the cormorant's material and taking it up to their lofty nesting sites which are inaccessible to the cormorants.

"But I am watching the position," Mr Gregory told me. "If the herons take too much, I shall supply more for the cormorants. Although the cormorant has never bred in the Gardens, so far as we know, there seems no reason why these birds should not do so. A few years ago a pair nested quite satisfactorily in St. James's Park."

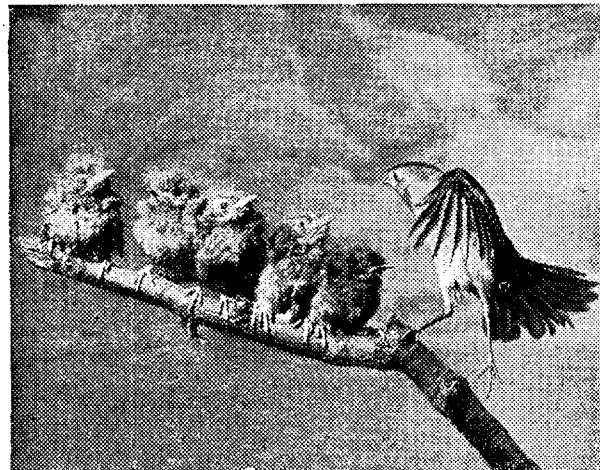
Few birds of prey become popular at the Zoo, but one who was an exception was Old Bill, the South American condor who has died suddenly of old age. Old Bill was the "Father of the Aviaries" for he had been living there since his arrival from the Andes in 1911.

To regular visitors he was almost a museum piece, his favourite perch being a tree stump on which he would sit by the hour. But he had his sociable moments and would sometimes hop down to the cage wires to have his bald pate tickled by his friends—usually with the ferrule of a stick or umbrella.

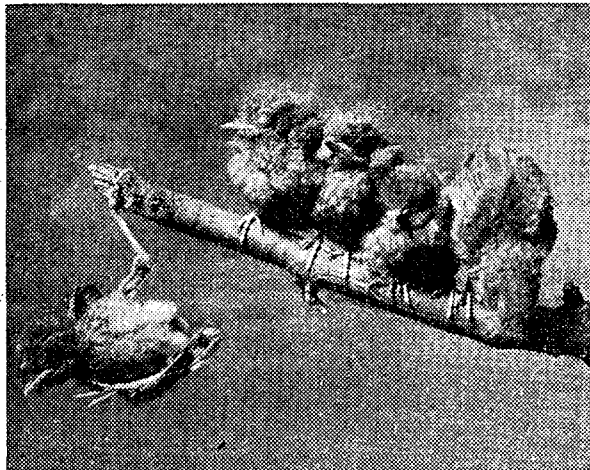
For his keepers Bill had little regard, and he attacked them more than once. On one occasion, when the keeper's back was turned, the condor swooped and struck at the man with talons and wings. The keeper threw up his broom to protect himself, but Old Bill smashed it!

Another time, when a keeper was cleaning the cage floor, the condor grabbed him by the leg and pulled him off his feet. Small wonder that, recently, keepers had made a practice of entering the condor's cage two at a time. One did the cleaning while the other stood on guard!

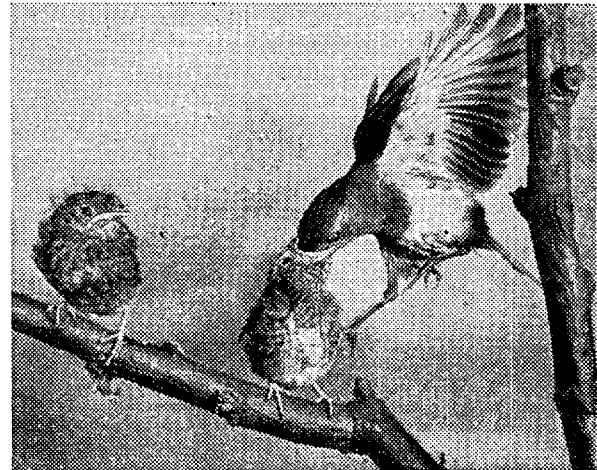
One Spring Morning in Somebody's Garden—Breakfast Time at the Robins



These five young robins look disgusted because Mother has come home with an empty beak and has started on again about learning to fly and feeding for themselves and all that. "Yes Mum, but what's for breakfast?"



"Mum's right, I'll show you how to fly," cheeps Arthur (already nicknamed "Airborne"). "Whoops! Haul me up somebody—my claw's got caught and my wing's got cramp!" But the others are all dozing off again.



Hullo, this is more like it! And of course brother Egbert is first in the queue as usual—he eats enough to keep a dozen grown-up robins. "My turn next, Mum. Can I have a worm this morning? I'm tired of stale breadcrumbs."

The Children's Newspaper, May 6, 1950



The new W R A C band on parade, led by Drum-Major Evelyn White



The five Scouts who will represent Britain at America's National Jamboree to mark her 40 years of Scouting



A Royal Marine band parading near H M S Victory at Portsmouth

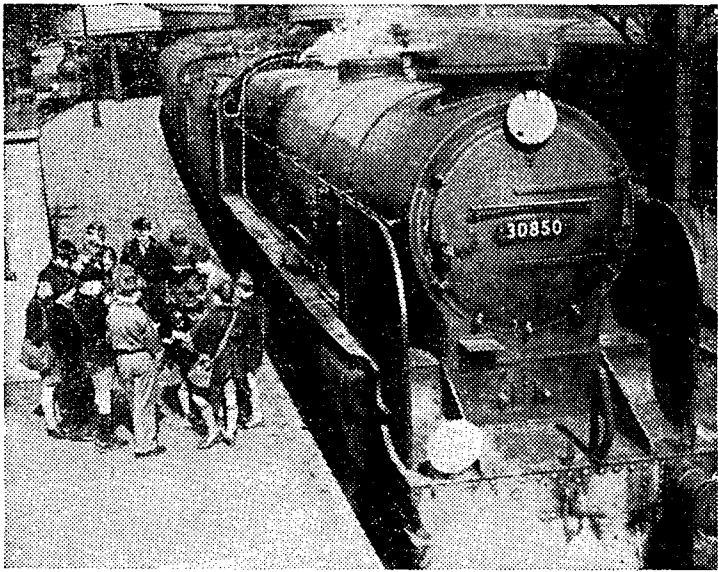
FORWARD! Pictures of young (and not-so-young) Britain on the march



Yeoman Warders of the Tower of London marching to chapel for a service



The band of the Bluecoat Boys of Christ's Hospital marching across the quadrangle of their handsome school buildings at Horsham in Sussex



Engine Spotters

A group of boys get together to compare notes at the end of the boat-train platform at Waterloo Station.

THE FIRST REAL MOTOR-CAR

A 75-YEAR-OLD motor-car was taken out of a museum in Vienna recently and driven at its maximum speed of seven-and-a-half miles per hour. This vehicle, it seems, can be claimed as the first real motor-car ever to be built, yet for years the car and its inventor were forgotten. The first internal combustion engine working by petroleum vapour, it has generally been thought, was that patented by Gottlieb Daimler in 1885, but ten years earlier this car had been built and driven by an Austrian, Siegfried Marcus.

The vehicle resembles a farmer's cart and has wooden wheels and iron tyres. It has a strange history. When Marcus drove it on its first journey along a road out of Vienna, and people gaped at the horseless wonder, a policeman was fittingly the first to recover his wits. He de-

clared that the monstrosity was much too noisy, and brusquely ordered Herr Marcus to take it home—and keep it there.

Marcus, downcast perhaps at the cold reception of his self-acting carriage, did as he was told, and nothing more was seen or heard of it for about 45 years when—its inventor having been dead for 22 years—this primeval motor-car was found in the shed where it had silently stood while its kind grew up and covered the roads of the world.

It was then wheeled out of the shed and placed in a museum, and a bust of its inventor was erected in a Viennese park. In the museum the Marcus car stood for another 30 years until, the other day, two engineering experts coaxed its antique .75 h.p. engine into life, and it made the second public journey of its long and self-effacing career.

Half-a-Million Stamps on View

NEXT Saturday, May 6, the doors of Grosvenor House, London, will be opened to admit visitors to the first international stamp exhibition to be held in England since 1923. It will be a display never before equalled in London, with over 500,000 stamps, worth £2,500,000, arranged in 918 frames.

Sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society and the British Philatelists Association, the exhibition was originally planned for 1940, the centenary of the first postage stamp, but the war intervened.

The exhibition begins with a display by the Postal History Society of the posts prior to 1840. His Majesty's Post Office has provided a selection of rarities, such as proof sheets of the "Penny Blacks," and a showcase contains exhibits from the Post Office Record Room of books showing the rare handstruck stamps and cancellations of last century.

A display of stamps of almost every country in the world will be seen, Great Britain being represented by 89 frames; there will also be displays of Airmail, Local, and Steamship Companies stamps. Possibly the biggest attraction of all will be a

selection from the collections of the King.

Sixty of the finest stamps ever printed will be on show, and visitors will be invited to choose the three best designs. There will also be a Junior Section for the under-20s, in which another prize competition has been arranged.

Prices of admission are 5s for Saturday and Sunday, and 2s 6d for the rest of the week. The opening ceremony, which is being broadcast, may only be attended by holders of a season ticket.

Acting Amid the Ruins

SINCE fire destroyed the church of St Michael and All Angels at Tettenhall, Staffordshire, a few weeks ago, donations for its rebuilding have been received from all over the Midlands.

To aid the fund, the children of nearby Codsall Secondary Modern School are shortly to produce, in the ruined nave of the church, a modern morality play called *I Will Arise*.

Written by T. B. Morris, the play tells how St Michael inspires the despondent citizens to rebuild their devastated church.

Wordsworth's Wishing-Gate

THE nation-wide movement to secure information concerning rights-of-way, ancient stiles, wishing-gates, and so forth, will demand caution and diligent inquiry; it is possible for details, hastily gathered and not tested, to lead to grave error, and one example lives on in the poems of Wordsworth.

A lover of all ancient harmless customs, Wordsworth wrote a poem on an old wishing-gate in the vale of Grasmere, and told in a footnote how wishes formed at such spots were believed to have a favourable issue. Later he was told that this ancient gate had been destroyed, and in grief and anger wrote a second poem lamenting the outrage.

Tis gone—with old belief and dream

That round it clung, and tempting scheme

Released from fear and doubt; And the bright landscape too must lie,

By this blank wall, from every eye, Relentlessly shut out.

That done, the poet then went to the scene himself, only to find that the old gate was still in position unharmed.

Most people would have cancelled the erroneous poem, but not Wordsworth! The poem was allowed to stand, and to this day it stands as a record of sighs and sorrowing over an event that never occurred.

All who share in the new labour of mapping our landmarks must make sure of their facts.

YOUTH CLUB'S MODEL

A MODEL railway, complete with engines, coaches, and rolling stock, is being built by members of St David's Youth Club, Knightswood, Glasgow. Though only twelve feet by eight, the engine will be electrically operated, and will pass through a miniature countryside.

Material has been gathered for the construction of bridges, farms, and cottages which will stretch along the line amid green fields, and as no Scottish railway line would be complete without a burn or two the boys and girls mean to fashion miniature streams along the route.

Over Time



Outside his jeweller's shop at Windsor, Mr Charles Dyson has had a clock fitted into the pavement. Three-year-old Wendy Hawkes thinks it a queer place to have a clock.

The Editor's Table

MERRY MONTH

BETWIXT spring and summer comes the month of May, a month celebrated in the world's folk tales and beloved of the poets. The old customs of the Maypole and Maying are not so universal as they once were, but the spirit of happiness which they expressed is as alive now as then.

Blow trumpet

For the world is white with May.

In some parts of England Tennyson's vision is literally true, for the hawthorn has spread its mantle o'er the hedge-row, and the woodland trees are arrayed in incomparable finery. That is the magic of the month, and the origin of much of May's traditional merri-ness.

May Day, of course, also has its serious aspect. For generations it has been dedicated to the aspirations of the people everywhere.

Different countries have different views of the way their people should march to make their dreams come true; but behind all the differences are the same hopes. All ordinary folk want peace, a home to live in, children to love, and friendship with their fellows, and if May Day can help to make those dreams come true then indeed May deserves to be called the Merry Month.

BRITAIN'S SHOP WINDOW

FROM May 8 to 19 Britain will dress the biggest set of shop windows in her industrial history; during that period the British Industries Fair is open in London and Birmingham.

The Fair is a remarkable witness to the initiative and energy of the ninety industries which spread their products before the eyes of the world's buyers. Five years of concentration on the products of peace have lifted our country again into a leading place among the world's producers. It has been a struggle, but this great Fair is evidence of victory.

At the root of this display lies the will of workers. However much industry is dependent on machines it is indebted far more to the people who invent and manage them; the human eye, hand, and skill are as important now as they were in the days of the great craftsmen.

This great Fair is testimony to the co-operation of management, staff, and machinery; it is a panorama of achievement of which Britain may well be proud.

YOURSELF

EVERYBODY has his own theatre, in which he is manager, actor, prompter, playwright, scenshifter, boxkeeper, door-keeper, all in one, and audience into the bargain.

Julius Charles Hare

A Bell for Hiroshima

IN the rebuilding of Hiroshima, the Japanese city destroyed by the first atom bomb, there is a church called the Church of the Resurrection.

No more appropriate name could have been found for a church in the city now rising from the ashes of its former life. But the church belfry was without a bell; and then someone in London had a good idea. Why not a ship's bell for Hiroshima?

The idea was suggested to the Admiralty which looked round the ex-minesweepers now being dismantled, and discovered one—the *Speedy*—whose bell was looking for a new home. So the *Speedy's* bell came to the Church Missionary Society in London, and there Dr Kagawa of Japan rang it for the first time in its new Christian vocation.

May Hiroshima's church bell long endure as a symbol of friendship between the two countries.

HOMES ON VIEW

DURING the coming months many of the "stately homes of England" will be on view to the public. By paying a modest entrance fee visitors will assist in the upkeep of these historic and noble homes.

Lord Derby reports that the 60,000 visitors who went into his home at Knowsley last summer caused no trouble at all. They respected his privacy, and showed by their behaviour that they appreciated seeing a great house which had never before been open to them in this way.

Tradition, affection, and sentiment as well as history are blended in these homes, and it is for all visitors to remember that they are homes first and show-places afterwards.

JUST AN IDEA

As Ben Jonson wrote, *Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak, and to speak well are two things.*

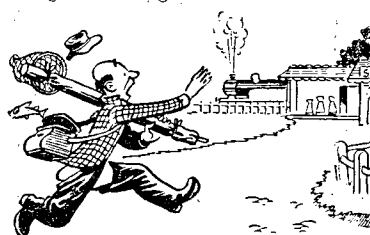
Under the E

THE average man is taking more interest in his hair. Thinks it is above the average.

A SPEAKER gave an address to a large audience. Did any of them write to him?

COALVILLE Mining College was started in a coach house. Right place for coaching.

A FUNNY story should be put in a nutshell. Then comedians can get cracking.



SOME anglers travel long distances fishing. And catch trains.

THINGS SAID

I WANT to show Britons tactfully and slowly that there are good Germans still existing.
Dr Schlange-Schoeningen, German Consul-General in London

I AM convinced that in England, and possibly Wales, the right way forward between the divided Churches is not to set up a rigid constitution which we will all accept, but to grow so alike over the course of years that in the end we find ourselves united without knowing it.

Archbishop of Canterbury

EFFORT in the athletic field has a great part to play in making a peaceful, happy, and kindly civilisation.

Lord Burghley

National Handwriting Test of 1950

THROUGHOUT the Easter holidays and into the new school term, the judges have been at work on the many thousands of entries for the C.N.'s great National Handwriting Test of 1950.

The entries reveal a high standard of work, and the task of the judges has been no light one. It is now nearing its end, however, and we hope to publish names of the chief prizewinners in next week's C.N.

Words and Music

IN Sicily, according to Mr Paul Hoffman, the Marshall Aid administrator, troubadours are employed to give people in the hills details of the Marshall Plan.

It is a scheme we commend to Sir Stafford Cripps. What could be more pleasing than to have wandering minstrels pause outside our doors and sing a song of Budget benefits?

A vast improvement it would be on White Papers and Economic Surveys, and everyone would welcome such sweet music down their street, provided they appreciated the Budget benefits!

May Day

MAN has always been thrilled with the coming of the Spring, and with the appearance of new life upon the Earth; and our May Day celebrations are a relic of the Roman festival of "Floralia" or Floral Games—a festival which began on April 28 and lasted for several days. When the May Queen is crowned she represents Flora, the Roman goddess of Spring.

From time immemorial villagers have "gone out a-maying"—going out before dawn to gather the blossom of the hawthorn. As the sun rises they have returned, "bringing home the may" to the accompaniment of dancing and music. With these blossoms they would decorate their doors and windows, and, of course, the maypole itself. The fairest maid of the village was crowned with flowers as Queen of May.

At Swinton, in South Lancashire, "Mayers" would go about carolling before the first day of May; they would start about the middle of April or even at the beginning. There were usually four singers accompanied by a flute and a clarinet, and the first verse of one of their songs ran:

Come listen awhile unto what we shall say,

Concerning the season, the month we call May;

For the flowers they are springing, and the birds they do sing,

And the baziers are sweet in the morning of May.

"Bazier" is a Lancashire term for the flower *auricula* a member of the primrose family; and as *auricula* means "a little ear," it has been suggested that "bazier" means "the base ear."

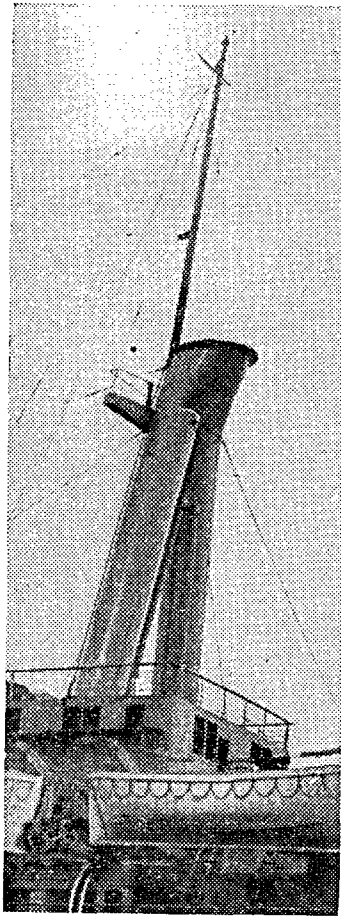
THE Maypole was once seen in every village and town. Indeed, one of London's city churches takes its rather unusual name from the maypole of the parish. This is St Andrew Undershaft, so called because when the maypole was erected it overtopped the steeple of the church, which was therefore "under the shaft."

John Stow, the historian, who was buried in this church, describes the setting up of the maypole there.

TWO PRINCIPLES

WHEN speaking to the Classical Association recently, Dr Hugh Last, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, said that there are two fundamental principles upon which our civilisation is built.

The first is that "every human being as such has to be regarded as of intrinsic value." The second is "that the distinction between right and wrong is absolute, that it is not made by any legislature, that no legislature can alter it . . . that the State, in fact, must be moral." It was in Greek and Roman times that these principles were first established; after many centuries of trial and error they remain the bedrock of Western civilisation.



Two-Legged Funnel

When the burnt-out *Monarch* of Bermuda was converted into the *New Australia* one of her funnels was replaced by this double variety, first of its kind to be installed in a British merchant ship.

Competition at an Exhibition

AN essay and lettering competition with a prize of £5 for senior schoolboys and girls on his or her impressions of a visit to an art exhibition in London has been organised by the Royal Society of Arts.

The exhibition is in memory of Percy Delf Smith, R.D.I., and will consist of examples of his lettering and calligraphy as well as some of his etchings, engravings, and paintings. It is being held in the Library of the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, WC2, from May 4 to May 26, admission free.

For students of art schools there is a prize of £10 for the best example of calligraphy and a specimen of lettering.

Full details of the Competitions will be obtainable at the exhibition on personal application only.

MOVING AN ICHTHYOSAURUS

A party of civil engineering students of Leeds University recently found the fossilised skeleton of an Ichthyosaurus in the harbour bed at Whitby, and they are now engaged in hewing the fossil out of the solid rock so that it can be taken to the University Museum.

This task is likely to take some weeks, as some hundreds of individual bones, including about 60 vertebrae, will have to be sorted out and re-assembled.

The Ichthyosaurus was a prehistoric marine reptile shaped something like a porpoise, and such finds as this are becoming increasingly rare.

The Scientist in a Balloon

MAY 9 is a notable day in the scientific calendar, for it marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac, a French genius of the laboratory who was imbued with a spirit of adventure which sent him to the heights.

Born in 1778 at the little town of St Leonard in the Haute Vienne, Joseph Gay-Lussac, was the son of a judge whose life was endangered during the French Revolution. He was thrown into prison to await trial, but young Joseph, then a lad in his early teens, won the favour of the prison governor, and so he was kept unnoted in gaol instead of being sent to Paris, where his execution would have been certain.

When at last his father was liberated, Joseph, a brilliant scholar, gained success upon success, and attracted the attention of Berthollet, the greatest chemist of the day, who was glad to have him as assistant. His studies took him from the laboratory to the heights by balloon, at first accompanied, and then alone, so that he might learn all he could concerning the physics and chemistry of the upper air.

It was in 1804 that Joseph's ascents were made, and the second was memorable. He rose by himself to a height of four-and-a-quarter miles, with a temperature of 18 degrees of frost, which numbed his hands, prevented him from swallowing, and made breathing painful.



Joseph Gay-Lussac

However, he descended safely, bringing with him flasks of air taken at his highest point which proved that, except regarding density, the atmosphere is the same above as at surface level. He also found that the Earth's magnetism does not diminish with height.

A year later he was able to announce that one volume of oxygen, combined with exactly two volumes of hydrogen, forms water. Half a century of equipment more refined produced figures different in the tiniest degree from Gay-Lussac's, a variation relating to the temperature and pressure at which combination takes place. A brilliant teacher and inspirer of youth, Gay-Lussac profited by the use of a powerful galvanic battery provided by Napoleon; his researches in electro-chemistry made him one of the foremost men in science.

Joseph Gay-Lussac was the discoverer of cyanogen and iodine; he multiplied the quantity of metals that the chemist in his laboratory could evolve. He enjoyed recognition as one of the leading scientists of his era, and a century after his death is still honoured as one of the master-builders of chemical science.

NEW FORTH BRIDGE

SOME interesting facts concerning the new road bridge which it is proposed shall span the River Forth near the famous railway bridge, were given by Dr Anderson, designer of the bridge, when he addressed a meeting in Cupar, Fife, recently.

The two towers from which the suspension cables will be hung will be half as high again as St Paul's Cathedral.

Each suspension cable is made up of 16,000 individual strands of wire. The cables will be carried from shore to shore, over the

towers in pairs and will take about three months to lay. The cables are designed to bear a strain of 33 tons to the square inch.

The bridge will be exposed to gales blowing up the Forth from the sea, and to test its resistance a large-scale model has been made, placed in a wind tunnel, and subjected to artificially-made winds far in excess of any known in the Forth Estuary.

The cost of the new bridge at today's prices will be in the region of £6,000,000.



OUR HOMELAND

The 17th-century smock mill at Terling in Essex

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If a new hat is an
overhead expense



A NEW picture for the Royal Academy shows a rain-washed street. In water colour, of course.

FOR traffic reasons, London's future shopping centres may be one-sided. What will become of the middle-man?

TEACHERS do not like helping with school meals. Prefer multiplication to dining-tables.

A MAGAZINE has been giving English people advice on how to behave in America. Some need advice on how to behave in England.

Digging Up Carthage

HUNDREDS of men with picks and shovels are now at work in North Africa on the site of Carthage, once one of the world's capitals. Twenty-eight centuries of history are buried there beneath ten feet of mud and sand; and it is hoped that by the summer of 1951 tourists will visit the excavations and see for themselves some of the one-time wonders of the ancient city, Queen of the Mediterranean.

This systematic excavation is under the direction of the French Tunisian government, who are using materials provided through Marshall Aid, including the ingenious "Traxcavator," a combined tractor and steam shovel. At present work is concentrated on the famous Antonine Baths, which stretch along the sea front.

Tons of Carthaginian stones and monuments have been carried off to build other cities as far away as Genoa and Cordoba since the destruction of the city by the Arabs in A.D. 698; but it is hoped that the main gateway to Carthage will be unearthed, and that some of the principal streets will be traced. Right over the central market-place site the Bey of Tunis has his summer palace—the only modern building to be left in the area.

NORWEGIAN BROADCAST

THE Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation are transmitting 15-minute short-wave broadcasts in English. These programmes are intended especially for the many friends of Norway in this country, and will include talks, news items, and interviews.

Transmissions will be at 12.0 midnight on Saturdays, and at 2 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., and 8 p.m. on Sundays, on 19 and 25 metres, and sometimes also on 13, 31, 61, and 190 metres. The times are Greenwich Mean Time, so do not forget to make the allowance for British Summer Time.

Steps to Sporting Fame



Playing for MCC this year is the young Lancashire spin bowler, Malcolm Hilton, a possible candidate for the next tour in Australia.



Young Malcolm practised a great deal on a cinder pitch behind his home. Later, he went into League cricket, and joined Lancashire from Werneth. Aged 19, he played for the county against the Australians in May 1948.

Malcolm Hilton



Malcolm then reached sporting fame in one stride by twice in the match claiming the wicket of Don Bradman. "Well bowled, Hilton," was the famous Australian's comment as his young conqueror came in for lunch.



Reaching home that evening, Hilton found himself surrounded by a crowd of schoolboys, demanding his autograph. Not yet a regular Lancashire player, he will not lack opportunities of playing with the MCC.

Rope and Ladder Rescue

How would you rescue a cat from a well 50 feet deep if you had a ladder only 25 feet long and no rope as long as 50 feet?

This was the problem, recently, of Mr Horace Bullen of Trunch, Norfolk, who had come six miles to rescue the cat. They had summoned him because he is a well-sinker, but they had not said how deep the well was, and the ladder he had brought was only 25 feet long.

Mr Bullen told two men to hold the top of the ladder for him at the top of the well while he climbed down to the foot of the ladder. Then he braced himself across the well and they lowered the ladder on the end of a rope to the bottom of the well.

Down the ladder once again went Mr Bullen, took pussy in his arms—she had been in the well 24 hours—and climbed to the top of the ladder, braced himself across the well again while they pulled the ladder to the top and held it for him to make the final ascent.

YOUNG ERNIE

AN old lady who was Sunday-school teacher to Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, has recently retired from being post-mistress at the beautiful Somerset village of Winsford, where Mr Bevin was born.

She is Mrs Mary Veysey, aged 84. She well remembers a little boy coming to Sunday school in a wide, white collar and a straw hat—and a grin. For the lad who was to be Foreign Secretary was rather mischievous and was always up to pranks, says Mrs Veysey. To make him behave better she gave him the task of distributing the little Testaments round the class, and this pleased him very much. With all his high spirits, she says, he was really a dear little chap.

THE PIRATE AND THE PROVOST'S DAUGHTER

THE ancient tenement of Morocco Land, in the storied Canongate of Edinburgh, is now being pulled down because of dilapidation; but a replica of this historic building is to be erected on the site, and the curious old statue of a Moor which adorned the original building will find a niche in the new one.

A strange and romantic story lies behind the name of Morocco Land. Early in the reign of Charles I a riot broke out in Edinburgh and the residence of the Provost was attacked and set on fire. A young man named Andrew Gray was arrested, accused of being the ringleader of the outrage, and sentenced to be executed two days after his trial. But on the night before his execution a rope was smuggled into the prison, enabling Gray to climb out and escape beyond the seas.

Nothing more was heard of Andrew Gray until 1645, when Edinburgh was stricken with a plague that emptied the busy streets and struck terror into

the hearts of all the citizens. To add to the city's distress, a large, heavily-armed Algerian pirate ship appeared in the Firth of Forth and sent a strong party on shore. The strangers advanced into the centre of Edinburgh, summoned the magistrates to meet them, and demanded a huge sum of money.

The Buccaneer's Demand

In vain did the Provost, Sir John Smith, and his brother-in-law, Sir William Gray, point out to the leader of the Moorish pirates the danger that he ran in entering the plague-ridden city. The buccaneer only laughed at the warnings and demanded the Provost's eldest son as hostage for his good faith.

"It seems, however," writes an old chronicler, "that the Provost's only child was a daughter, who then lay stricken of the plague, of which her cousin, Egidia Gray, had recently died."

When he learned this news a great change was noticed in the attitude of the leader of the Moors. He was, in fact,

none other than Andrew Gray.

It appears that after his escape Andrew Gray had taken service with the Emperor of Morocco, with whom he had become a great favourite. Now he had returned to his native city vowing vengeance on the city magistrates; but he found that by a strange turn of fortune the chief objects of his wrath were related to him.

Without revealing his identity, Gray then stated that he was in possession of a medicine of amazing potency and demanded that the Provost's daughter should be entrusted to his skill. Reluctantly, the Provost had his daughter conveyed to a house in the Canongate, and there the pirate restored her to health.

The end of the story is as it should be. Andrew Gray married the Provost's daughter and settled down in the Canongate house where he had cured her of the plague. There he set up a statue of his royal patron, the Emperor of Morocco, and from that time the tenement has borne the name Morocco Land.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE—Picture Version of Shakespeare's Popular Drama

Antonio, the young merchant of Venice, had borrowed 3000 ducats to help his friend Bassanio to court the wealthy lady, Portia, in fitting style. Shylock, his creditor,

had made the strange condition that if the sum were not repaid by a certain time one pound of Antonio's flesh would be forfeit. Antonio, expecting that his ships laden

with merchandise would arrive soon, agreed to this condition. Bassanio, accompanied by another friend, Gratiano, travelled to Belmont, where Portia lived.



To win Portia, Bassanio was obliged under the terms of her father's will to choose the right one of three caskets, one of gold, one of silver, one of lead. The right casket contained her portrait, but she had taken an oath not to reveal which one this was. Bassanio chose the leaden one and, to his joy, found her picture inside. Portia was equally delighted, for she was as much in love with him as he was with her.



Portia gave him a ring and said: *Myself and what is mine to you and yours is now converted; but now I was the lord Of this fair mansion, master of my servants, Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now, This house, these servants and this same myself Are yours, my lord: I give them with this ring; Which when you part from, lose, or give away, Let it presage the ruin of your love, And be my vantage to exclaim on you.*



Then Gratiano and Nerissa, Portia's maid, said that they wanted to be married too. All were rejoicing when a letter was brought for Bassanio. It was from Antonio, to say that all his ships had been wrecked, so that he could not repay Shylock, who was now demanding the letter of his bond—a pound of flesh. Here is a letter, lady, exclaimed Bassanio. The paper as the body of my friend, And every word in it a gaping wound.



What sum owes he the Jew? asked the wealthy Portia. For me three thousand ducats, replied Bassanio. What, no more? cried Portia. Pay him six thousand, and deface the bond; Double six thousand, and then treble that. Before a friend of this description Shall lose a hair-through Bassanio's fault. First go with me to church and call me wife, And then away to Venice to your friend. Bassanio agreed, and went at once to make ready for his departure.

Another instalment of the Merchant of Venice will appear next week

The Children's Newspaper, May 6th, 1950

Healthy Young Scots

*Come hither lads and hearken,
for a tale there is to tell
Of the wonderful days a-coming,
when all shall be better than
well.*

WILLIAM MORRIS wrote that verse in the last century, and now his prophecy is being fulfilled in Scotland, where the young people have been shown to be "better than well" in the Report of the Scottish Health Department.

There has been such a startling improvement in their health, says the report, that in future public health may have to be judged not by death rates and figures about diseases, but by the prevalence of sub-standard health.

In Glasgow boys and girls are taller and heavier than they were 18 years ago; boys aged 13 last year were two inches taller and 7½ lbs heavier than those of the same age in 1932, and schoolgirls were also 7½ lbs heavier and 1½ inches taller.

The infant death rate was 39 per cent below that of 1941-45, and the general death rate was the lowest ever recorded.

MORGAN OF THE MOUNTIES

will be here again
next week in an
amusing adventure—

The Fastest Caterpillar in the World

Make sure of your CN by
giving a newsagent an order

Saving Up For The Outing

PARTIES of eight or more passengers travelling together can obtain first- or third-class day return tickets at the ordinary single fare, and members of holiday clubs and other organisations often save up their money for outings under this scheme.

Club Secretaries can obtain from any District Commercial officer of British Railways holiday subscription cards, which can be used for recording the weekly or other periodical payments made by a member.

A University's Jubilee

ON Friday this week one of Britain's younger universities, Birmingham University, is celebrating its jubilee. Honorary degrees are to be conferred on Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and on seven others, including Sir Barry Jackson, who founded Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

In years Birmingham is still a baby among the world's universities, yet in its comparatively short life some great men have been connected with it. Sir Oliver Lodge, the scientist, was its first Principal, and Sir Edward Elgar was the first occupant of its Chair of Music.

It is chiefly to the energy of the famous statesman Joseph Chamberlain that the University owes its birth. He collected half a million pounds towards its cost, and the University's great clock tower, 325 feet high and seen for miles, is a memorial to him.

The University's story really begins in 1828 when Queen's College was founded as a school of medicine. The scientific work of Queen's was taken over in 1882 by the new Mason College, which attained a high reputation for its medical teaching, and which was destined to develop into the University.

The Charter of Birmingham University was granted in 1900, and land for its buildings at Edgbaston was given by Lord Calthorpe. Its first Chancellor was Joseph Chamberlain, who saw to it that the faculty of Commerce should have a prominent place in its studies, thus reflecting the industrial character of its city. Today the University has over 3000 students, and its Chancellor is Mr Anthony Eden.

This young place of learning has lived up to its motto, *Per ardua ad alta*—By the hard way to the heights. May its fame increase in the years to come.

LIFESAVERS

STURDY young Lifesavers are a feature of Australia's beaches, and many a swimmer in distress has good cause to thank them.

The other day members of the Coff's Harbour Surf Lifesaving Club, all volunteers, undertook a rather unusual mission.

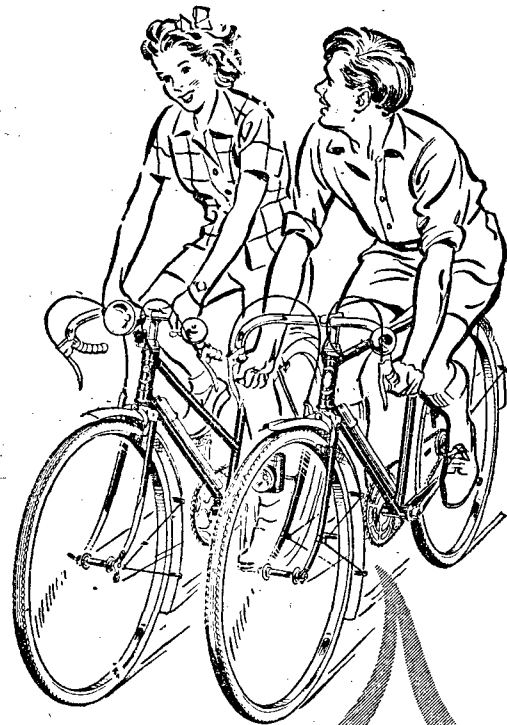
A girl of 16 suffering from infantile paralysis was in an iron lung at the district hospital. Suddenly the iron lung broke down. The local lifesavers were called in, and they applied artificial respiration, much as they would do in their ordinary work.

For two hours the youths worked unceasingly until a spare part of the iron lung had been delivered to the hospital. The patient was then put back into the repaired automatic breather, none the worse for the unfortunate break in her treatment.

Fighting Dust

NEW apparatus for extracting dust from the air in the dressing sheds of slate quarries is being installed in North Wales, and within a year the whole industry should be so equipped.

It is hoped that this development will ease the labour problems of the industry. Many young men have been deterred from going into the quarries because of the slate dust, which causes chest troubles and other complaints.



"DUNLOP TYRES
*for me -they're
safe and sound!"*

9H/320

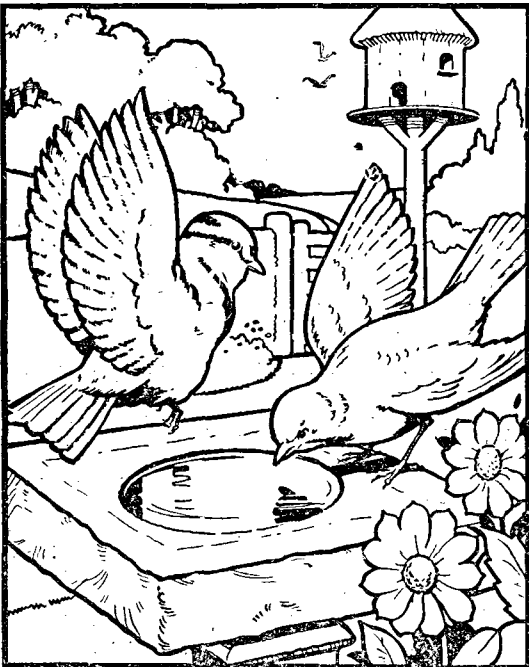
New CN Competition Series!

1st Prize: A BICYCLE for Colouring this Picture

Cameras and Meccano Sets For Runners-Up

HERE is No 1 of a spring and summer series of competitions for CN readers! Every month there will be an interesting competition with grand prizes for boys and girls. The first prize this month is a fine New Bicycle, and there are Meccano Sets or Cameras, according to choice, as consolation prizes for the six next-best entries.

This is a chance for young artists to show what they can do. This colouring competition is open to all readers under 17 years of age and, of course, there is *no entry fee*. The prize Bicycle (junior model, or full size as the winner may need) will be awarded for the best colouring of the picture given here. Full allowance will be made for age.



The colouring may be done in paints or crayons.

To enter, simply cut out and colour the outline as nicely as you can, but remember you can do better work if you paste the picture on a postcard or thick paper and let it dry thoroughly first. Cut out the panel whole—that is, picture and coupon together—and then fill in the coupon plainly in ink. Make sure that you get your effort signed as your own unaided work and that you have marked your preference for Meccano Set or Camera if you are winner of a consolation prize. Then post to:

CN Competition No 1,
5 Carmelite Street,
London, E C 4
(Comp),

to reach us by
Tuesday, May 16,
1950.

This competition is open to all readers in Great Britain, all Ireland, and the Channel Isles. The Editor's decision will be final.

This colouring is entirely my own work.

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

In the event of my being a consolation-prize winner I should like a MECCANO SET/ CAMERA (cross out the one not required).

Certified.....Parent/
Guardian

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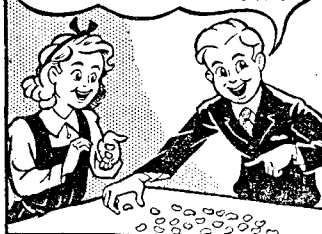
SEE THESE 25 BEANS? BET YOU I MAKE YOU PICK UP THE LAST ONE.



EACH OF US PICKS UP IN TURN ONE, TWO OR THREE BEANS—NO MORE. ALL RIGHT—YOU START.



SHE'S PICKED UP THREE—I'LL PICK UP ONE. MAKING THE TOTAL FOUR. IF SHE'D PICKED UP TWO I'D HAVE PICKED TWO. GET THE IDEA?



HA-HA! THAT'S THE SECRET—ALWAYS MAKE HER START. ALWAYS MAKE THE TOTAL BEANS PICKED UP EACH TIME COME TO FOUR—AND AT THE END SHE'LL ALWAYS BE LEFT WITH THE LAST FOR HER LAST TURN.



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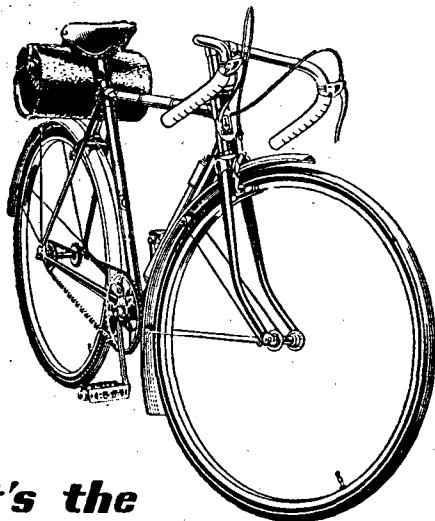
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Oldest Ship in the World?

WHICH is the oldest merchant ship at present in commission? From time to time various names are put forward, but a correspondent in *The Shipbuilding and Shipping Record* has put forward a claim that the 2390-ton *Nacala* (ex-three-masted barque *Leyland Brothers*) is the oldest passenger-cargo ship operating on regular service in the North Atlantic.

She was built in 1886 at Southampton, and 64 years is a long time for an ocean-going vessel of any type. Some thirty years ago she was said to be "too old," and acted for a long time as a kind of floating coal warehouse—a sorry plight indeed for a once-proud barque, with her tall masts, sails, and clipper bow.

Conversion

During her coaling service a storm drove the *Nacala* from her anchorage and damaged her, but upon drydocking for repair her iron hull was found to be in such excellent condition that it was decided to convert her to an ocean-going vessel again.

The cost was £250,000, but her present skipper, Captain Jose de Castro, thinks it has been well worth it; he says she has years of service ahead of her. She now has the appearance of something like a cross between a small tanker and a large coaster.

Although almost modernised throughout, the *Nacala* still has her old hull; she can make 12 knots, and carries a full complement of passengers on every voyage between Lisbon and America.

SCOTS AS SHE IS SPOKE

EVEN on the Scottish side of the Border listeners sometimes find difficulty in understanding the broad dialects heard in various Scottish wireless programmes; and to remedy this state of affairs the B.B.C. have begun a weekly programme called *The Guid Scots Tongue*.

As in England, the Scottish language has many widely-varying dialects in *Chambers's Scots Dialect Dictionary*, for instance, there are no fewer than 50 alternatives for that favourite Scots word "canny." Another difficulty lies in the fact that some Scots words, such as "pawky," have no exact equivalent in English and a whole sentence is often required to explain them.

Robert Kemp, the writer and producer of the programme, understands the problems, and is presenting *The Guid Scots Tongue* in an interesting way by means of a series of conversations carried on between an expert and a learner in the studio.

Electronic Tuning-Fork

Most piano-tuners of long experience can tell accurately whether a note on the piano is too sharp or too flat, but a newly-invented electronic tuning device cannot possibly make a mistake.

When a note is struck a microphone picks up the sound and transmits it to a tube of illuminated gas where there is a revolving ring. While the note is "off" the ring keeps revolving, but when the frequency of the sound is correct the ring slows down and stops.

BEDTIME CORNER

Blue Shoes For Sally

SALLY had three brothers, all younger than herself. They were called Jim, Kim, and Tim. Every evening after tea they all used to choose a story for Mummie to read to them. Sally's favourite was *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* because the picture of Goldilocks in the book was very like Sally herself.

She, too, had long golden curls and bright blue eyes.

And her party frock was blue and white and frilly, with a blue sash also. The only thing Sally hadn't got which Goldilocks had, was a pair of bright blue shoes.

Then one day Sally and her brothers were asked to a Fancy Dress Party.

"What shall we go as?"

asked Jim, Kim, and Tim. "I know," cried Sally. "Let's go as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and we'll be sure to win a prize."

Mummie thought it a very good idea. She said Jim, Kim, and Tim could wear their everyday brown woolly zipper suits; and she made brown woolly hoods with bears' ears

for their heads, and brown woolly mittens in the shape of bears' paws for their hands. "And now all we have to do," she said, "is to buy your bright blue shoes, Sally."

But alas! Alas! There were red shoes, green shoes, brown shoes, fawn shoes, black shoes, and white shoes. But never a pair of blue.

"We'll have the white ones, then," said Mummie.

So the white satin shoes were bought. But Sally was nearly crying because she felt sure they'd not win a prize if her shoes were the wrong colour.

In bed that night she did cry.

"My! What a silly you are," said Mummie. "Go to sleep now, and see what tomorrow brings."

And in the morning, to Sally's delight, there stood a pair of bright blue shoes by her bed. For Mummie had coloured those white ones with bright blue ink.

They did win a prize, too—a box of chocolates which they all could share.

JANE THORNICROFT



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Absolutely Free. This wonderful Packet of Stamps can be Yours Free. It contains lovely Holland (Netherlands) Child Welfare Charity stamp showing a *Little Dutch Girl on Swing*, also Large Spain (General Franco), also fine France (Peace and Olive Branch), also interesting Italy (Torch of Enlightenment).

Get Your Packet now. Just send 3d. stamps for our posting costs, ask for *Dutch Girl on Swing Packet Free*, and ask to see selection of Windsor Approvals.

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This fine stamp of TENNIS PLAYER in action FREE to all applicants for Approvals sending 2d. postage.

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This week we offer the following bargains:

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When ordering, please ask for a selection of our World Famous Approval Sheets.

ERRINGTON & MARTIN (Dept. 559), South Hackney, London, E.9, England. Established in the year 1880.

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10 DIFFERENT AUSTRALIA FREE!

To everyone requesting my discount Approvals
P. OWEN (Dept. CN 8), "Larkhill," 237 Hartford Road, Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire.



FREE SET OF 3

large SARAWAK inc. stamp illus. to all collectors requesting famous Approvals. Send 3d. to cover my postage and lists.

WRIGHT'S STAMP SHOP, Dept. 54, CANTERBURY, Kent.

SUPER PACKET FREE



Have you got the large pictorial stamp of MONACO portraying the famous collector President Roosevelt with his collection? It is FREE, and also the following fine stamps, ARC de THIONVILLE, stamp brought by the Allies to FRANCE when they landed in NORMANDY, an obsolete EQUATORIAL AFRICA, Masaryk of CZECHOSLOVAKIA, also Van Muller of Australia, a one million stamp of inflation GERMANY and a pictorial CEYLON. A fine packet and absolutely FREE, just enclose 3d. for postage and request our world famous Approvals and illustrated price list of albums and sets.

LISBURN & TOWNSEND LTD. (CN), WEST KIRBY, WIRRAL

In: Children's Newspaper, May 6, 1950

This book makes every walk an ADVENTURE



HUNT the wild flower and keep it beautiful and colourful for ever! This new book brings an exciting hobby up-to-date. How, where and when to find 38 attractive, common wild flowers—and how to press them and mount them, told in 24 illustrated pages by S. Francis Blackwell. A full colour portrait of each flower makes naming them easy, and a special drying-paper section in the book gives you the means to press your specimens as soon as you get home. Start your "Treasure Hunt" today—begin a collection that will make every outing an adventure and every stay-in evening a pleasure. 3/6 from all booksellers or if any difficulty, 3/9 post free from:

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Played with teams of miniature men, ball and stumps with balls. Overarm bowling, double wickets and all the "outs" such as clean bowled, caught, stumped, etc. Googlies, breaks and even body-line bowling. Hits for six, four, and odd runs.

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17 The Lodge, Langton Green,
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Send 3d. for our NEW BARGAIN LIST of 600 series. ALBUMS to hold 200 cards 1/9, to hold 64 cards 9d. 100 different cards 2/9 post free. We offer the following sets ex-stock:

Player's Aircraft of the R.A.F.	2/6
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AUNT EMMY COLLECTS PANSIES, PETUNIAS AND...

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LIQUORICE ALLSORTS

TO FOSTER HANDICRAFT

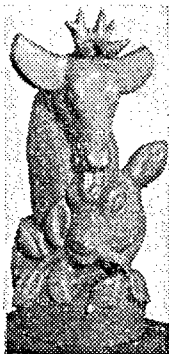
Most of us value a thing made by skilled hands above a similar article mass-produced by machine, so we shall welcome the permanent exhibition, opened last week in London, where we can see examples of the work of Britain's craftsmen and women.

It is the new Crafts Centre at 16-17 Hay Hill, Berkeley Square, which will be a home and shop window for some 500 whose life-work is to make beautiful things with their hands.

The things on view are not for sale; but sales of objects like those shown will be arranged.

Among the exhibits are attractive examples of calligraphy, textiles, engraved glass, and pottery. There are, too, hand-made furniture, a spinet and a clavichord (old-fashioned musical instruments), beautiful examples of book-binding, stoneware, and articles in gold and silver.

The Crafts Centre has been formed by five craftsmen's societies and is a non-profit-making organisation. The Government will contribute £3000 a year towards the £6000 required for its upkeep if the craftsmen themselves and the public contribute at least the other half.



Two Fawns, by Donald Potter

First Great Alpine Tunnel

ONE hundred years ago old-fashioned people were shaking their heads at the crazy notion of boring a railway tunnel through the Alps. *The Times*, however, was enthusiastic about the idea. "What a magnificent problem is here presented to the inventive genius of the age!" wrote that newspaper in 1850. "What splendid results to be attained by its successful conclusion?"

In spite of such encouragement, however, the Mont Cenis tunnel, eight miles long, was not opened for another 21 years. Work on it began on the Italian side in 1857, and on the French side in 1863, and it was finished in 1870 at a cost of £3,000,000.

Twelve years later came the St Gotthard tunnel, 9½ miles long, and an even greater engineering feat. Yet it was a tunnel of tragedy, for 200 workmen lost their lives in constructing it. Lack of ventilation was the cause, and was remedied in the piercing of what was, when opened in 1906, the longest railway tunnel in the world, the Simplon tunnel, which is 12½ miles long.

It is significant of modern progress that old folk who could remember travelling in stage coaches were among those who had the thrill of travelling from Switzerland to Italy in a brilliantly-lighted electric train.

LAWN TENNIS AGAIN

THIS week the lawn tennis season opens in earnest with the British Hard Courts Championships taking place as usual on the beautiful courts at Bournemouth.

This tournament, founded in 1924, has become one of the most important in the tennis calendar, for it is the first all-international meeting of the season, and attracts many prominent players and large crowds of spectators.

Visitors to Bournemouth this week include a number of stars from overseas, with Jaroslav Drobný to set the pace. Adrian Quist, that wonderful veteran of the courts, is here with his fellow-Australians, but the Americans are still on the Continent, for the Paris Championships coincide this year with our own Hard Courts Tournament.

Chief interest at Bournemouth centres upon our younger players—the Davis Cup stars of tomorrow—in particular John Barrett, now in the R.A.F., and Wilfred Rowe, who has been working on a farm in the West Country, and training hard all the winter, when he could spare a few minutes from his farm work.

Meal-less Journey

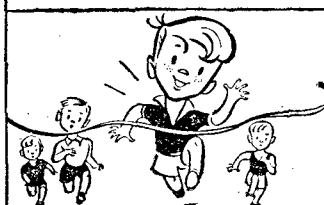
A PARTY of many thousands of insects which travelled by plane from London to Australia recently were given no meals on the way so that they should be ready for a really big feed of weeds when they arrived.

These passengers, who were forbidden to "spoil their dinner," are tiny black insects called Zeuxidiplexis, whose home is in the south of France, and who are fond of eating a weed that has been invading grasslands in Australia. There must have been some Zeuxidiplexis nightmares due to over-eating after they were let out.

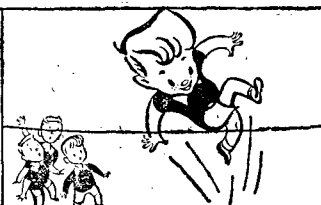


The Record Breaker

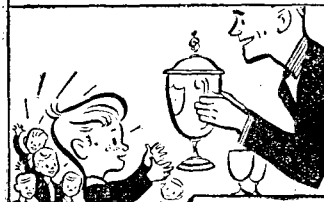
It's Sports Day at School. Jimmie and Billy, the boy next door, are all set to beat the record!



They're both in the 100 yds. sprint. "On your toes!" Gosh, just watch them go! Jimmie wins by yards.



Now for the High Jump. Jimmie reaches 4ft. 6ins. clearing 3 inches higher than Billy and wins another event.



Prizegiving. Jimmie's won 6 cups. "How do you do it?" asks Billy. "I never win." "Come home with me," grins Jimmie, "and I'll show you."



"Here's my secret," says Jimmie. "I train on Welgar Shredded Wheat. Mum gives it me for breakfast, tea or supper every day."



The Welgar Boy says:

"There's nothing like Welgar Shredded Wheat for strength and stamina. To win, at work or sports, you need the nourishment of Welgar Shredded Wheat. Ask your Mother to write for the NEW Welgar Recipe Book, to Dept. C.U.6, The Shredded Wheat Co. Ltd., Welwyn Garden City, Herts, today!"

WELGAR SHREDDED WHEAT

The All-Day Food You Just Can't Beat!

Brilliant England centre-forward, the 'wisest head in Soccer'...

Tommy Lawton

SAYS



"Here's how I cross roads..."

"Fancy foot-work scores on the football-field, where you want to confuse the other side's halves and backs. But on the road, confusion is the last thing you want—it's much too dangerous. Head-work is the thing, when you're crossing a street. Here's how I do it:

- 1 At the kerb—HALT.
- 2 Eyes—RIGHT.
- 3 Eyes—LEFT.
- 4 Glance again—RIGHT.
- 5 If all clear—QUICK MARCH.

Quite calm, no running and dodging, because I wait for a proper gap in the traffic first.

"If you misjudge things in Soccer—well, you're very seldom hurt, anyway. But if you take chances in traffic, and a car or lorry charges you, you may be killed. And the same accident may kill other people. So watch your step, be a good Road Navigator, and cross all streets the Kerb Drill way."

T. Lawton

Issued by the Ministry of Transport

THE BRAN TUB

Hand-some

He entered a furniture shop and asked the salesmah for a mirror.

"A hand mirror, sir?" asked the assistant.

"Er, no thanks. Just one I can see my face in."

Poor Percy

THE "hares" had lain a fine clear trail

Across the countryside,
And our Poor Perce, out for a stroll,

This suddenly espied.

"These Litter Louts!" he cried aghast.

"They get worse every day."

No more ado, he got to work—
And swept the lot away!

The End

BILL: What part of a fish is like a book?

Jill: Why, the fin-is, of course.

Heads and Tails

BEHEAD a fruit and leave a part of the body.

Curtail a plant and leave a spice.

Behead a plant and leave to exist.

Curtail an animal and leave a serpent.

Behead what a shepherd carries and leave a black bird.

Curtail an aquatic mammal and leave a body of water.

Answer next week

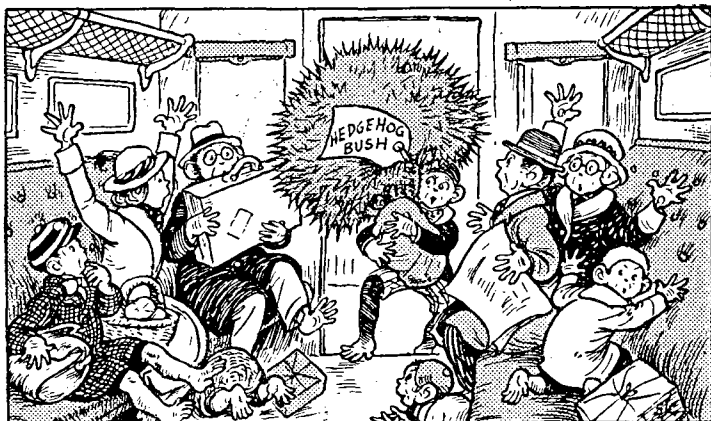
Countryside Flowers

ALTHOUGH often found growing on hedge-banks, Herb Robert favours a stony soil and will also flourish on old walls.



The delicately-veined flowers have five bright pink petals, and measure about half an inch across. The branching stems, which grow from six to 18 inches long, are hairy and brittle and usually tinged with red. The fern-like leaves turn red during autumn. Herb Robert belongs to the geranium family.

Jacko is Given a Wide Berth



JACKO had been sent up to Town to collect a new plant for his father. He soon found out why it was called a Hedgehog Bush—it was covered all over with prickles. It was a big plant, nearly the same size as Jacko, and most people gave him a wide berth as he staggered along the street. It was the same when he entered the railway carriage. In no time he had a large space all to himself. As Jacko chuckled afterwards: "I didn't realise before that people could be so polite."

Dodo

A CERTAIN bird is well known because it does not exist.

When we say that something is "as dead as the dodo" we are referring to the bird which lived on the island of Mauritius until it became extinct toward the end of the 17th century.

Rather larger than a swan, it had a massive beak, curly tail feathers, stout legs, and small useless wings. Portuguese sailors named it *doudo*, meaning stupid.

Jumbled Poets

IF properly rearranged, the letters of each of the following phrases will spell the surnames of six famous Poets Laureate:

SEA FILMED RIG BEDS
YOU SETH THROW SWORD
NET SONNY AS UNIT

Answer next week

Tell Anty This

TEACHER: Now, Johnnie, what do you know about ants?

Johnnie: There are two kinds of ants, insects and lady uncles.

Twelve Inches One Foot

THERE was an old fellow named Deet,

Who possessed most remarkable feet.

He would state with much pride,

They were twelve inches wide,
And stretched nearly the length of the street.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south. In the



morning Venus and Jupiter are in the east. The picture shows the Moon at 5.30 on Friday morning, May 5.

Four Hens

A MAN has four hens. The first lays for three consecutive days and then misses a day; the second lays for four days and then misses a day; the third lays for five days and misses a day; the fourth lays for six days and misses a day.

If all miss laying today, how many days will it be before they all miss together again?

Answer next week

Farmer Gray Explains

Strolling Stoats. The grasses swayed gently; bright eyes stared inquisitively at the children.

"Look! A weasel, Don!" exclaimed Ann.

"There's another, and another," replied Don excitedly.

Suddenly a large stoat appeared. It chattered angrily before vanishing in the direction taken by the smaller animals.

"They must have been young stoats, not weasels," said Don.

"Quite right, Don," replied Farmer Gray, arriving on the scene. "Stoats pair early in the year. By May or June family parties can be seen. Mother and father stoat are teaching the children to hunt."

Riddle-My-Name

My first is in shake, not in shiver;

My second in lake, but not river;

My third is in dawn and in early;

My fourth is in brawn, not in burly.

Four letters name a male.

A clue? Well, say, "A dale."

Answer next week

Fixed

BILL was rather inattentive, so the teacher fired a question at him.

"Where was Solomon's temple?"

"Er, er, on the side of his head, sir," said Bill hopefully.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A distinguishing feature in character. 5 Venomous serpent. 8 A bright warm colour. 9 The honey badger. 11 Small landowner or farmer. 13 You and I. 14 Stage plays. 16 Organs of sight. 17 Wooden pins. 19 To punish. 21 Exists. 23 Spring festival. 25 Outdoor pastime. 27 Compass point (abbrev). 28 To become brown by exposure to sun. 29 Having organs of hearing.

Reading Down. 1 To attempt. 2 Abounding with water plants. 3 Regards with utmost respect. 4 Railed road-vehicle. 5 Denotes contiguity. 6 To work with needle and thread. 7 Excuses. 10 Beheaded bananas name a pineapple. 12 Employer. 15 Not so hard. 16 To live. 18 Large swimming birds. 20 A local tax. 22 Health resort. 24 Same as 8 across. 26 Above and touching.

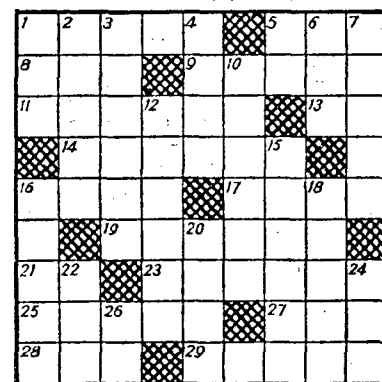
Answer next week

Never-Never Land

JOHN: Doesn't Harry speak fluent Esperanto?

Jack: Rather! In fact, you would think him a native.

The Children's Newspaper, May 6, 1950



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Riddle-My-Name:

Robert

How Far?

Dithering is 6 miles from Sleepyville

Built-up Word:

COOT

Sharps THE WORD FOR EXPORT



Sharps

THE WORD FOR TOFFEE

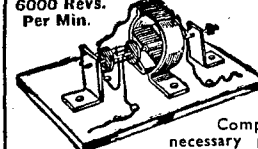
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